

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
COME-00 EB-08 AID-05 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8797

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 12326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, E

SUBJECT: ASEAN/US MINISTERIAL -- MEETING WITH ROMULO

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL ROMULO RECEIVED GEBER AND MRS. MANALO JULY 19 TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR ASEAN/US MINISTERIAL. TWO THEMES DOMINATED DISCUSSION. "MEETING IS A CHANCE FOR US TO PROJECT ASEAN TO IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC." "THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING US, AND IF THERE WERE NO CONCRETE RESULTS, THE IMPACT ON OUR PEOPLE HERE WOULD BE DISMAL." END SUMMARY.

2. ROMULO STATED THAT EACH ASEAN DELEGATION EXCEPT FOR INDONESIA WOULD BE HEADED BY ITS FOREIGN MINISTER -- RAJARATNAM, UPPADIT, RITHAUDEEN AND HIMSELF. INDONESIA WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY WIDJOJO, BECAUSE SUHARTO HAD DECIDED SOME TIME AGO, DURING A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, THAT INDONESIA WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT SUCH MEETINGS BY AN ECONOMIC MINISTER. ONLY
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THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE MORE THAN ONE MINISTER -- VIRATA, SICAT AND PATERNO, BUT NOT VELASCO SINCE SCHLESINGER IS NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE. PRAWIRO IS NOT NOW LISTED ON INDONESIAN DELEGATION.

3. AS EARLIER CONVEYED, RAJARATNAM AND VIRATA WOULD BE THE SPOKESMEN AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON. ROMULO

STRESSED THAT HE WANTED TO GIVE EACH MINISTER A CHANCE TO SPEAK. UPPADIT WOULD LEAD OFF ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION. RITHAUDEEN WOULD MAKE THE ASEAN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY VANCE AT THE LATTER'S DINNER. WIDJOJO OR PRAWIRO (IF HE GOES) WOULD RESPOND TO MRS. KREPS AT THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECEPTION, AND ALSO WOULD BE THE SPEAKER AT THE ASIAN SOCIETY IN NEW YORK. ROMULO HIMSELF WOULD MAKE THE OPENING STATEMENT AND THE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ("COULD WE GET ADVANCE COPY OF HIS REMARKS?"). RAJARATNAM WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT TO ROMULO'S OPENING, AND ASEAN WOULD APPRECIATE SECRETARY VANCE RECOGNIZING HIM FOR THAT PURPOSE.

4. ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S LUNCH, ROMULO SUGGESTED THAT ONLY THE MINISTERS BE INVITED.

5. GEBER DESCRIBED THE SCHEDULED CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED THAT AN ASEAN SPOKESMAN GIVE A SHORT BRIEFING ON ASEAN AND TELL THE CONGRESSMEN WHAT ASEAN WANTED FROM THE UNITED STATES. ROMULO IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT VIRATA WOULD BE A GOOD BRIEFER FOR THE HOUSE MEETING BUT WOULD CONSULT AS TO WHO WOULD DO THE SENATE MEETING.

6. ROMULO STRESSED THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE A CHANCE FOR ASEAN TO PROJECT ITSELF TO IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY CONGRESS AND THE PRESS. HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PREPARED FOR ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS, EVEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT ANY CENSORSHIP OF QUESTIONS AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON (CF. STATE 181878).

7. GEBER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES VERY MUCH DESIRES THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BE A SUCCESS AND RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS. WE DID NOT FORESEE SPECTACULAR, BUT SOLID AND USEFUL, RESULTS. GEBER CITED THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS, PROPOSED OPIC INVESTMENT MISSION, AND VISIT OF EXIMBANK PRESIDENT MOORE FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION. BUT MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE REGARDED PRIMARILY AS AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN ADVANCING THE PROCESS OF INCREASING LONGER-TERM COOPERATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

8. ROMULO SAID THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING, AND IF THERE WERE NO CONCRETE RESULTS, THE IMPACT ON OUR PEOPLE HERE WOULD BE DISMAL. HE STRESSED THAT WHILE ASEAN IS NOT COMING WITH HAT IN HAND, OUR PEOPLE DO THINK THAT WAY. THEREFORE, ARRANGING VISITS PER SE IS NOT ENOUGH.

9. GEBER SAID THE EXIMBANK CHAIRMAN'S VISIT HAS THE CON-
CRETE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING INTENSIFIED BANK ACTIVITY IN
THE REGION. MRS. MANALO INTERRUPTED TO MENTION THE
POSSIBILITY OF INTERESTING EXIMBANK IN ONE OR ANOTHER
ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECT. SHE WENT ON TO CITE THE DEVEL-
OPMENT PROJECTS, U.S. INTEREST IN PROMOTING SMALL SCALE
INDUSTRIES, AND REFUGEES TO INDICATE THE SOLID BUT CON-
CRETE RESULTS WHICH BOTH SIDES ARE INTERESTED IN.

10. MRS. MANALO'S HUSBAND, AMBASSADOR ARMANDO MANALO
WHO IS ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, THEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 12326

REPHRASED THE "CONCRETE RESULTS" QUESTION THUSLY,
"WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES GOING TO DO IN THE SITUATION
THAT IS DEVELOPING?"

11. ROMULO SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES LEFT AN ARMORY IN
VIETNAM. WOULD THEY USE IT? THAT WORRIES US. WE DON'T
WANT AFRICA TO BE TRANSPLANTED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE
RUSSIANS CAN DO IT. AFTER ALL, WOULD THE VIETNAMESE DARE
EXPUL THE CHINESE IF THE RUSSIANS WEREN'T BEHIND IT?

12. ROMULO THEN STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS IS GIVING
HIGH PRIORITY TO THE ASEAN/US MEETING, EVEN PERMITTING
THE ABSENCE OF FOUR MINISTERS DURING THE CURRENT IBP
SESSION. THE PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING WORTH-

WHILE WILL COME OUT OF THE DIALOGUE. ROMULO CONCLUDED
THE DIALOGUE SHOULD SHOW THE UNITED STATES' DETERMINATION
TO HELP THOSE WHO FACE A HOSTILE AND OPPOSITE IDEOLOGY.
MURPHY

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